

CLAIMS

The invention is claimed as follows:

5 1. A gaming device operated under the control of a processor, said
gaming device comprising:

 a display device;

 a first award adapted to be at least partially revealed by the
display device, wherein a random determination determines whether

10 the first award is to be unrevealed by the display device, wherein said
unrevealing of the first award occurs if the first award is determined to
be unrevealed and after said first award is at least partially revealed by
the display device, and wherein the first award is provided to a player if
the determination is made that the first award is not to be unrevealed;

15 and

 a second award adapted to be at least partially revealed by the
display device in place of the first award if the first award is unrevealed,
wherein said display device at least partially reveals said second award
in place of the first award if the first award is unrevealed.

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2. The gaming device of Claim 1, wherein said second award is
larger than said first award.

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3. The gaming device of Claim 1, wherein said first award and said
second award have different values.

4. The gaming device of Claim 1, which includes a third award at least partially revealed by the display device, wherein the third award is revealed in place of the second award when it is determined that the second award is to be unrevealed.

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5. The gaming device of Claim 1, which includes a fourth award at least partially revealed by the display device, wherein the fourth award is revealed in place of the third award when it is determined that the third award is to be unrevealed.

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6. The gaming device of Claim 1, wherein the second award is provided to the player if the processor determines that the third award is not to be revealed.

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7. The gaming device of Claim 4, wherein the third award is provided to the player if the processor determines that the fourth award is not to be revealed.

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8. The gaming device of Claim 1, wherein the processor uses award data stored in said storage device, wherein the award data represents values for the first and second awards.

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9. The gaming device of Claim 8, wherein the award data represents a range of values for the first award and a range of values for the second award.

10. The gaming device of Claim 1, wherein said first and second awards are displayed as numbers selected from the group consisting of written numbers, scripted numbers, and printed numbers.

5 11. The gaming device of Claim 1, which includes at least one live action video clip stored by a memory device and adapted to be displayed by the display device in connection with unrevealing the first award.

10 12. The gaming device of Claim 11, wherein an animation is displayed by the display device in combination with the live action video clip.

13. The gaming device of Claim 11, which includes a plurality of live

15 active video clips stored by the memory device.

14. The gaming device of Claim 1, which includes a plurality of masked selections displayed by the display device, wherein the first award is at least partially revealed upon the player's choice of one of

20 the masked selections.

15. A gaming device operated under the control of a processor, said gaming device comprising:

a display device;

a first award at least partially revealed by the display device;

5 a random determination of whether the first award is to be unrevealed by the display device, wherein the first award is provided to a player if the random determination is made that the first award is not to be unrevealed; and

a second award at least partially revealed by the display device

10 to replace the first award after said random determination that the first award is to be unrevealed.

16. The gaming device of Claim 15, wherein said second award is larger than said first award.

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17. The gaming device of Claim 15, wherein said first award and said second award have different values.

18. The gaming device of Claim 15, which includes a third award at 20 least partially revealed by the display device, wherein the third award replaces the second award after a random determination that the second award is to be unrevealed.

19. The gaming device of Claim 18, which includes a fourth award at least partially revealed by the display device, wherein the fourth award replaces the third award after a random determination that the third award is to be unrevealed.

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20. The gaming device of Claim 18, wherein the second award is provided to the player after a random determination that the third award is not to be revealed.

10 21. The gaming device of Claim 19, wherein the third award is provided to the player after a random determination that the fourth award is not to be revealed.

15 22. The gaming device of Claim 15, which includes award data stored in a storage device, wherein the award data represents values for the first and second awards.

20 23. The gaming device of Claim 22, wherein the award data represents a range of values for the first award and a range of values for the second award.

24. The gaming device of Claim 15, wherein said first and second awards are displayed as numbers selected from the group consisting of written numbers, scripted numbers, and printed numbers.

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25. The gaming device of Claim 15, which includes at least one live action video clip stored by a memory device and adapted to be displayed by the display device in connection with unrevealing the first award.

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26. The gaming device of Claim 25, wherein an animation is displayed by the display device in combination with the live action video clip.

10 27. The gaming device of Claim 25, which includes a plurality of live active video clips stored by the memory device.

28. The gaming device of Claim 15, which includes a plurality of masked selections displayed by the display device, wherein the first 15 award is at least partially revealed upon the player's choice of one of the masked selections.

29. A gaming device comprising:

- 1 a display device;
- 2 a plurality of awards;
- 3 a separate probability of replacing an award associated with
- 4 each of said awards;
- 5 a first award of said plurality of awards, which is at least partially revealed by the display device;
- 6 a random determination of whether the first award is to be replaced based on the probability associated with said first award,
- 7 wherein the first award is provided to a player if the random determination is made that the first award is not to be replaced; and
- 8 a second award at least partially revealed by the display device in place of the first award when said random determination is that the first award is to be replaced.

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30. The gaming device of Claim 29, which includes a third award at least partially revealed by the display device, wherein the third award is revealed in place of the second award when it is determined based on the probability associated with the second award that the second award is to be unrevealed.

31. The gaming device of Claim 30, which includes a fourth award at least partially revealed by the display device, wherein the fourth award is revealed in place of the third award when it is determined based on the probability associated with the third award that the third
5 award is to be unrevealed.

32. The gaming device of Claim 31, wherein the probability associated with each subsequent award is lower than the previous award.

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33. The gaming device of Claim 29, wherein a plurality of the probabilities associated with the awards are different.

34. The gaming device of Claim 29, wherein all of the probabilities
15 associated with the awards are different.

35. A gaming device comprising:

- 1 a display device;
- 2 a plurality of awards;
- 3 a probability of collecting an award associated with each of said awards;
- 4 a first award of said plurality of awards, which is at least partially revealed by the display device;
- 5 a random determination of whether the at least partially revealed first award is to be collected by a player based on the probability associated with said first award, wherein the first award is provided to the player if the determination is made that the first award is to be collected by the player; and
- 6 a second award at least partially revealed by the display device in place of the first award when it is randomly determined that the first award is not to be collected by the player.

36. The gaming device of Claim 35, which includes a third award at least partially revealed by the display device, wherein the third award is revealed in place of the second award when it is determined based on the probability associated with the second award that the second award is not to be collected.

37. The gaming device of Claim 36, which includes a fourth award at least partially revealed by the display device, wherein the fourth award is revealed in place of the third award when it is determined based on the probability associated with the third award that the third
5 award is not to be collected.

38. The gaming device of Claim 37, wherein the probability increases for each subsequent award.

10 39. The gaming device of Claim 35, wherein a plurality of the probabilities associated with the awards are different.

40. The gaming device of Claim 35, wherein all of the probabilities associated with the awards are different.

41. A gaming device comprising:

- a display device;
- a plurality of awards;
- a probability of revealing an award associated with each of said awards;
- an award percentage associated with each of the awards, said award percentage indicating the amount of each award to reveal to a player;
- a first award selected from the plurality of awards;

10 a random determination of whether the first award is at least partially revealed to the player based on the probability associated with said first award;

- an award determination to determine the amount of the first award to reveal to the player based on the award percentage associated with said first award when it is determined that the first award is to be revealed to the player, wherein said determined amount of the first award is provided to the player when it is determined that the second award is not to be revealed to the player; and
- a second award at least partially revealed by the display device

15 in place of the first award when it is randomly determined that the second award is to be revealed to the player based on the probability associated with said second award.

42. The gaming device of Claim 41, which includes a third award at least partially revealed by the display device, wherein the third award is revealed in place of the second award when it is determined based on the probability associated with the second award that the second
5 award is to be unrevealed.

43. The gaming device of Claim 42, which includes a fourth award at least partially revealed by the display device, wherein the fourth award is revealed in place of the third award when it is determined
10 based on the probability associated with the third award that the third award is to be unrevealed.

44. The gaming device of Claim 43, wherein the probability decreases for each subsequent award.

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45. The gaming device of Claim 41, wherein a plurality of the probabilities associated with the awards are different.

46. The gaming device of Claim 41, wherein all of the probabilities
20 associated with the awards are different.

47. The gaming device of Claim 43, wherein the award percentage increases for each subsequent award.

48. The gaming device of Claim 43, wherein the award percentage decreases for each subsequent award.

49. The gaming device of Claim 43, wherein the award percentage increases for each subsequent award and the probability decreases for each subsequent award.

50. The gaming device of Claim 41, wherein a plurality of the award percentages associated with the awards are different.

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51. The gaming device of Claim 41, wherein all of the award percentages associated with the awards are different.

52. A gaming device comprising:

- 1 a display device;
- 2 a plurality of awards groups, each of said groups including a plurality of awards;

5 5 a probability of selecting an award associated with each of the awards in each of the award groups;

- 10 a first award at least partially revealed by the display device, said first award randomly selected from a first award group of said plurality of award groups based on the probabilities associated with each of the awards in said first award group, wherein the first award is provided to a player if the determination is made that the first award is not to be unrevealed; and
- 15 a second award at least partially revealed by the display device to replace the first award when it is determined that the first award is to be unrevealed, wherein the second award is randomly selected from a second award group of the plurality of award groups based on the probabilities associated with each of the awards in said second award group.

20 53. The gaming device of Claim 52, wherein a plurality of the probabilities associated with the awards in each of the award groups are different.

25 54. The gaming device of Claim 52, wherein all of the probabilities associated with the awards in each of the award groups are different.

55. The gaming device of Claim 52, wherein the awards in the second award group are larger than at least one of the awards in the first award group.

5 56. The gaming device of Claim 52, wherein the awards in the first award group are larger than at least one of the awards in the second award group.

57. The gaming device of Claim 52, wherein the awards in the first 10 award group are different than the awards in the second award group.

58. The gaming device of Claim 52, wherein all of the probabilities associated with the awards are different.

59. A gaming device comprising:

- a display device;
- a plurality of masked selections adapted to be displayed to a player by the display device;

5 a selector which enables the player to choose one of the masked selections;

- a first award at least partially revealed by the display device after the player chooses one of the masked selections;
- a processor operable to determine if the first award is to be unrevealed by the display device, wherein if the processor determines that the first award is to be unrevealed, the processor causes the display device to unreveal the first award, wherein the first award is provided to a player if the processor determines that the first award is not to be unrevealed; and

10 a second award at least partially revealed by the display device if the processor determines that the first award is to be unrevealed, wherein the second award replaces the first award.

60. A method for operating a gaming device, said method comprising:

- (a) at least partially revealing a first award to a player at an area of a display device;
- 5 (b) providing the first award to the player if a determination is made to not replace the first award;
- (c) unrevealing said first award from the area of the display device if the determination is made to replace the first award; and
- 10 (d) replacing the first award with a second award at the area of the display device by at least partially revealing the second award at said area of the display device to the player after the determination is made to replace the first award with the second award.

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61. The method of Claim 60, which includes randomly determining a value for the awards from award data stored by a storage device.

62. The method of Claim 60, which includes repeating steps (b) 20 through (d) at least once.

63. The method of Claim 60, which includes fully revealing the second award and providing the second award to the player.

64. The method of Claim 60, wherein unrevealing the at least partially revealed first award includes displaying a live action video clip.

65. The method of Claim 64, which includes selecting the live action 5 video clip from a plurality of live action video clips stored by a storage device.

66. The method of Claim 64, wherein the video clip is combined with animation displayed by the display device.

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67. The method of Claim 60, wherein steps (a) to (d) are provided to a player through a data network.

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68. The method of Claim 67, wherein the data network is an internet.

69. The method of Claim 60, wherein instructions for executing steps (a) to (d) are stored on a storage device.

70. A method for operating a gaming device, said method comprising:

- (a) displaying a plurality of masked selections to a player and enabling the player to choose one of the masked selections;
- (b) at least partially revealing a first award on a display device after the player chooses one of the selections including said first award;
- (c) randomly determining if the first award is to be replaced on the display device;
- (d) unrevealing the at least partially revealed first award after it is determined that the first award is being replaced;
- (e) randomly selecting a second award when it is determined that the first award is being replaced; and
- (f) replacing the first award with the second award by at least partially revealing the second award on the display device.

71. The method of Claim 70, which includes providing the first award to a player if it is randomly determined that the award is not to be replaced.

72. The method of Claim 70, wherein steps (a) to (f) are provided to a player through a data network.

73. The method of Claim 72, wherein the data network is an internet.

74. The method of Claim 70, wherein instructions for executing 5 steps (a) to (f) are stored on a storage device.

75. A method for operating a gaming device, said method comprising:

- (a) revealing at least part of a first award at an area of a 10 display device to a player;
- (b) determining whether to unreveal the first award;
- (c) providing the first award to the player if it is determined that the first award is not to be unrevealed;
- (d) replacing the first award with a second award at the area 15 of the display device by revealing at least part of the second award when it is determined that the first award is to be unrevealed;
- (e) determining whether to unreveal the second award;
- (f) providing the second award to the player if it is determined that the second award is not to be unrevealed; and 20
- (g) replacing the second award with a third award at the area of the display device by revealing at least part of the third award when it is determined that the second award is to be unrevealed.

76. The method of Claim 75, which includes replacing the third award with a fourth award at the area of the display device by revealing at least part of the fourth award when it is determined that the third award is to be unrevealed.

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77. The method of Claim 75, which includes providing the third award to the player when it is determined that the third award is not to be unrevealed.

10 78. The method of Claim 77, which includes providing the fourth award to the player when it is determined that the fourth award is not to be unrevealed.

15 79. The method of Claim 75, wherein unrevealing the first award includes displaying at least one live action video clip.

80. The method of Claim 79, which includes displaying an animation on the display device in combination with the live action video clip.

20 81. The method of Claim 75, wherein steps (a) to (g) are provided to a player through a data network.

82. The method of Claim 81, wherein the data network is an internet.

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83. The method of Claim 75, wherein instructions for executing steps (a) to (g) are stored on a storage device.

84. A method for operating a gaming device, said method
5 comprising:

(a) revealing at least part of a first award at an area of a display device to a player;

10 (b) determining whether to replace the first award with another award selected from a plurality of awards based on a probability of replacing an award associated with each of the awards in the plurality of awards;

(c) providing the first award to the player if it is determined that the first award is not to be replaced based on the probability associated with the first award;

15 (d) replacing the first award with a second award at the area of the display device by revealing at least part of the second award when it is determined that the first award is to be replaced based on the probability;

20 (e) determining whether to replace the second award based on the probability associated with the second award;

(f) providing the second award to the player if it is determined that the second award is not to be replaced; and

25 (g) replacing the second award with a third award at the area of the display device by revealing at least part of the third award when it is determined that the second award is to be replaced.

85. The method of Claim 84, which includes increasing the probability for each subsequent award.

86. The method of Claim 84, which includes decreasing the 5 probability for each subsequent award.

87. The method of Claim 84, wherein steps (a) to (g) are provided to a player through a data network.

10 88. The method of Claim 87, wherein the data network is an internet.

89. The method of Claim 84, wherein instructions for executing steps (a) to (g) are stored on a storage device.

90. A method for operating a gaming device, said method comprising:

- (a) revealing at least part of a first award at an area of a display device to a player;
- 5 (b) determining whether to replace the first award with another award selected from a plurality of awards based on a probability of collecting an award associated with each of the awards in the plurality of awards;
- 10 (c) providing the first award to the player if it is determined that the first award is to be collected by the player based on the probability associated with the first award;
- 15 (d) replacing the first award with a second award at the area of the display device by revealing at least part of the second award when it is determined that the first award is not to be collected by the player based on the probability;
- (e) determining whether to replace the second award with another award from the plurality of awards based on the probability associated with the second award;
- 20 (f) providing the second award to the player if it is determined that the second award is to be collected by the player based on the probability associated with the second award; and
- (g) replacing the second award with a third award at the area of the display device by revealing at least part of the third award when it is determined that the second award is not to be collected by the player.

91. The method of Claim 90, which includes increasing the probability for each subsequent award.

92. The method of Claim 90, which includes decreasing the
5 probability for each subsequent award.

93. The method of Claim 90, wherein the steps (a) to (g) are provided to a player through a data network.

10 94. The method of Claim 93, wherein the data network is an internet.

95. The method of Claim 90, wherein instructions for executing steps (a) to (g) are stored on a storage device.

96. A method for operating a gaming device, said method comprising:

- (a) revealing at least part of a first award selected from a plurality of awards at an area of a display device to a player based on a probability of revealing the first award associated said first award;
- (b) determining the amount of the first award to reveal to the player based on an award percentage associated with said first award if the first award is revealed to the player;
- (c) providing the first award to the player if it is determined that the first award is not to be replaced;
- (d) replacing the first award with a second award selected from the plurality of awards at the area of the display device if it is determined that the first award is to be replaced;
- (e) revealing at least part of the second award to the player based on the probability of revealing the second award associated with said second award;
- (f) determining the amount of the second award to reveal to the player based on an award percentage associated with said second award if the second award is revealed to the player;
- (g) providing the second award to the player if it is determined that the second award is not to be replaced; and
- (h) replacing the second award with a third award selected from the plurality of awards at the area of the display device if it is determined that the second award is to be replaced.

97. The method of Claim 96, which includes increasing the probability of revealing the awards for each subsequent award.

98. The method of Claim 96, which includes decreasing the 5 probability of revealing the awards for each subsequent award.

99. The method of Claim 96, which includes increasing the award percentage associated with the awards for each subsequent award.

10 100. The method of Claim 96, which includes decreasing the award percentage associated with the awards for each subsequent award.

101. The method of Claim 96, wherein steps (a) to (h) are provided to a player through a data network.

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102. The method of Claim 101, wherein the data network is an internet.

20 103. The method of Claim 96, wherein instructions for executing steps (a) to (h) are stored on a storage device.

104. A method for operating a gaming device, said method comprising:

- (a) selecting a first award from a plurality of awards in a plurality of award groups based on a probability of selecting an award associated with each of the awards in the award groups;
- (b) revealing at least part of said first award at an area of a display device;
- (c) providing the at least partially revealed first award to the player when it is determined that the first award is not to be unrevealed;
- (d) selecting a second award from the plurality of awards in one of the plurality of award groups based on the probabilities associated with the awards in the award groups, wherein the second award replaces the first award at the area of the display device when the first award is to be unrevealed; and
- (e) revealing at least part of the second award to the player at the area of the display device when it is determined that the first award is to be unrevealed.

20 105. The method of Claim 104, wherein steps (a) to (e) are provided to a player through a data network.

106. The method of Claim 105, wherein the data network is an internet.

107. The method of Claim 104, wherein instructions for executing steps (a) to (e) are stored on a storage device.

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